

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1550

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 4390

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINT, CA

SUBJ: TRUDEAU NAMES OUELLET AND GUAY TO CABINET

1. TO REPLACE BARNEY DANSON, WHO IS BEING SHIFTED TO DEFENCE, ANDRE OUELLET WILL BE SWORN IN TODAY AS MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS. ALSO, JOSPEH GUAY, LIBERAL MP FROM ST. BONIFACE, WILL BE SWORN IN AS MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO.

2. COMMENT: OUELLET WAS MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE FROM 1972 TO 1974 AND MINISTER OF CONSUMDER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS FROM 1974 TO MARCH OF THIS YEAR WHEN HE RESIGNED AFTER HE HAD BEEN CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT. HIS CONVICTION RESULTED FROM HIS OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF A JUDGE'S DECISION DISMISSING PRICE-FIXING CHARGES AGAINST SUGAR COMPANIES. THE COURT ORDERED HIM TO PAY A \$500 FINE AND TO APOLOGIZE PUBLICLY FOR HIS REMARKS, AND AN APPEAL COURT RECENTLY UPHELD THE CONVICTION, BUT REVOKED THE REQUIREMENT THAT HE APOLOGIZE. HIS CRITICISM OF THE JUDGE'S DECISION WAS IN KEEPING WITH HIS REPUTATION AS A SOMEWHAT SHORT-TEMPERED AND IMPETUOUS INDIVIDUAL. HE DID, HOWEVER, DO AN EXCELLENT JOB OF SHEPHERDING THE ANTI-COMBINES (BILL C-2) LEGISLATION THROUGH PARLIAMENT IN 1975, AND WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS A CONSCIENTIOUS MINISTER.

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3. GUAY IS GENERALLY NOT CONSIDERED OF CABINET

CALIBRE, BUT HE IS THE ONLY LIBERAL MP FROM MANITOBA,
BESIDES RICHARDSON, AND TRUDEAU'S INTEREST IN MAIN-
TAINING REGIONAL BALANCE IN THE CABINET WAS PRESUMABLY
THE MOTIVATING FACTOR IN GUAY'S APPOINTMENT. WE HAVE
BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT HIS APPOINTMENT WAS MADE
OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY HIERARCHY IN
MANITOBA, WHICH APPARENTLY FELT HE LACKS MINISTERIAL
QUALITIES.
ENDERS

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